

Extract from
Interrogation of Hideki Tojo
28 March 1946

p. 1 - 4

Q Within a month after the war with America started, was not the Prisoner of War Information Bureau set up?

A Yes, it was. It was set up on a basis of treaties.

Q Within two or three months thereafter, there was set up, was there not, the Prisoner of War Administrative Section? I am not sure if this is the correct Japanese title for it, however.

A All the work dealing with military prisoners was handled by the Prisoner Information Bureau, I think. Was this a public body?

Q Yes, I think it was part of the War Department and very similar to the Prisoner Information Bureau.

A I believe it was handled by the Prisoner Information Bureau. There was a separate body under the Home Ministry, however, to deal with civilians. I don't know what the name of that was.

Q What organizations, in addition to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, were set up by the War Department for dealing with prisoners?

A Besides the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, there were the Prisoner Reception Centers [shuyojō].

Q Were there a number of these?

A Yes.

Q And the number and locations of these were fixed by the Minister of War, were they not?

A. Yes, as the number of prisoners increased, the number of centers increased in the same way.

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Q And regulations and orders with respect to prisoners of war were either made or approved by the War Minister, were they not?

A Yes, of course.

Q So that certain clerical work with respect to prisoners of war was done here in Tokyo, but the actual handling of prisoners in the field was performed by the heads of the centers under the regulations and orders received from the War Department, was it not?

A Yes, of course. About the orders, there was one other thing. The War Minister issued the orders, but the army commanders could issue further orders on the basis of those issued by the War Minister.

Q Did those orders have to be consistent in principle with the orders issued by the War Minister?

A Yes, of course. They were issued on a basis of the War Minister's orders.

Q And the clerical work, which was done with respect to the prisoners in Tokyo, was directly under the Military Affairs Bureau, was it not?

A It was done by the Military Affairs Bureau. The rules were the result of conferences between the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau and the General Staff.

Q You mean the Chief of the General Staff?

A No, someone under him.

Q How many members of the General Staff did the Chief of the Military Affairs Board confer with in connection with these matters, and who were they.

A The head of the Military Affairs Bureau was a member of the War Department, of course. Depending on the nature of the problem, he would confer with any one of the four General Staff sections, that is to say, with the first section, Operations; second section, Intelligence; third section, Transport; or with the General Affairs Section.

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Q Who was head of the Military Affairs Bureau within a short time after the war with America started?

A Akira MUTO. At that time he was a major general.

Q How long did he remain Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau?

A I don't remember well, but I think he remained in that position until August or October of 1942.

Q Who was head of the Prisoner of War Information Bureau at the beginning of the war and after?

A Lieutenant General UEMURA. I don't know his first name.

Q Was it Mikio?

A I think so.

Q Do you remember telling Lieutenant General UEMURA that the prisoners of war must be used to increase Japan's production?

A I permitted their use in factories. This was based on treaties.

Q Do you recall also stating, in early 1942 that in order to show the might of Japan, it would be necessary to establish prisoner of war camps in Korea, Formosa, Manchuria and China and have the prisoners undergo compulsory labor?

A Do you mean that I said that?

Q Didn't you say that in substance if not in the same words?

A No. The location of the camps was determined by transport considerations and labor considerations. One other thing I would like to say. You spoke of forced labor /kyōsei rōdō/. It was not that. This was based on international law which enables prisoners of the rank of Petty Officer and below to be employed as workers. Commissioned Officers can be employed at their own request. I think that was specified in the rules which I issued as Minister of War and to which I referred a moment ago.

Q Who succeed MUTO as head of the Military Affairs Bureau?

A Kenryō SATO. At that time he was a major general.

* * * *

EXHIBIT 1983A

文書ヲ四一八二A號

一九四六年三月二十八日

東條英機 訊問ヨリノ抜萃

ヤ一頁一四頁

問 対米戦争開始後一ヶ月以内ニ俘虜情報局ヲ設ケラレタデ

ハアリマセンカ。

答 左様デス。條約ニ基イテ設ケラレマシタ。

問 其後ニ三月月デ俘虜管理局ヲ設置セラレタデハアリマセンカ。

尤モ之ガ其ノ正イ日本語ノ如稱デラル。ドウク分リマセンカ。

答 軍事俘虜ニ関スル仕事全部ハ俘虜情報局テ取扱ハタ
様ニ考ヘス。ソレハ公機関デシラウカ。

問 左様。ソレハ陸軍省ノ一部デシタト思ヒス。ソレテ俘虜情報局

ニヨク似テ居ミタ。

答 ソレハ俘虜情報局ニヨリ取扱ヒタト思ヒス。シカレ内務省ノ下ニ非戰

闘員ヲ扱フ別個機関ガアリマシタ。其ノ名前ヲ何トニシタカ承知
シテ居リマセン。

問 俘虜情報局ノ外ニ俘虜取扱ノ為ニ如何ナル機関ガ陸軍省ニ
ヨリ設ケラレマシタカ。

答 俘虜情報局ノ外ニ俘虜收容所ガアリマシタ。

問 ソレハ多数アリマシタカ。

答 左様デス。

問 ソレニソノ收容所ノ數ハ場所ハ陸軍大臣ガ決定シタデスネ。

左様デス。

増加ルニ準シテ收容所數モ殖ミマ

レタ。
内 俘虜ニ関スル規則 命To Room 361
RETURNS TO ROOM 361
或ハ決裁シテ

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居ります。

答 勿論、左様です。

向 スト、俘虜三國の武種、書類ヨリ仁事ハ当地、東京ヲ報ヒタデ
セリ。現地ニ於ケル實際、俘虜、取扱ハ收容所長ヨリ陸軍省ヲ
受ケテ規則命令ニ從ッテ行ハタシテセリ。

答 勿論、左様です。命令ニ就テ、令一ツ、二ツガ有リ。陸軍大臣ハ命令
ヲ出シ、其ガ軍司令官ハ右、陸軍大臣、命令ニ基キ、其ノ先、
命令ガ出セタス。

向 其、命令ハ、原則トシテ、陸軍大臣、發シ、命令ト一致シテ居ル
バイテタリタス。

答 勿論、左様です。陸軍大臣、命令ニ基キテ發セタス。

向 ソレ、東京ヲ行ヒタ、俘虜三國ノ書類上、事務トシテハ直接
軍務局、管下ニ行ハタシテセリ。

答 軍務局ヲ報ッテ居リタ。其、規則ハ軍務局長ト參謀本部
トノ協議、結果出ス。

向 參謀總長、意味デス。

答 イエ、參謀總長ノ部下、者デス。

向 本件ニ付テ軍務局長ハ參謀本部員幾人ト協議シタス。

又、參謀本部員ハ誰デス。

答 軍務局長ハ勿論、陸軍省員デス。問題、性質上、參謀本部、
四部、何レトモ協議ヲシタ。四部即チヤ一部作戦、ヤ三部
情報、ヤ三部運輸交通及總務部。

向 対米戦争開始直後、軍務局長ハ誰デス。

答 武藤章デス。其時少將デス。

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問 彼ト、任 軍務局長、職ニ居タラスカ

答 多ク記憶シタセカ 一九四三年、八月方十月迄 其職ニ居タト思ヒス

問 戦争開始及其後、俘虜情報局長、誰デラスカ

答 植村中將デス 其、如前、知リマシ

問 軒雄ニモ

答 ツタト思ヒス

問 貴方植村中將ニ俘虜、日本、生産増加ニ使用スルヲ話
シタツ覺エ居ラスカ

答 俘虜ヲ工場ニ使用スルヲ私、許可シタ、此ハ條約ニ基ツテ
居リマシ

問 一九四二年、初メニ日本、威勢ヲ見セ為ニ朝鮮、台灣、滿洲
中國ニ俘虜收容所ヲ設ケ 俘虜ニ強制労働ヲ課スル必要
アルト云ツテアツタツ覺エ居ラスカ

答 然ガレタツタト仰有ルデス

問 同じ言葉ヲハクモ、其、意味、アツタツ云ハシセデラスカ

答 イ、エ、收容所、位置、輸送ト労働ト、関係ヲ決定サシマ

今ニ申上ゲタイアトガアリマス、貴方、強制労働、事ヲ云ハシマ

ツ、違ヒマシタ 下ニ官以下、俘虜ヲ労働者トシテ使ヒ得ルト云フ

國際法ニ基ツテ居タラス 將校達ハ本人、希望ガコレバ使用

ヲイフコトヲ云ヒタス 此、今一寸、前ニオ話しタ私ガ陸軍大臣

トシテ出タ規則中ニ明示シテアツタ思ヒス

問 軍務局長トシテ、武蔵、後任ハ誰デラスカ

答 佐藤賢了デス、其、時少將デタ

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Page 1

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p. 7 - 8

Q Had you heard at any time that the treatment received by prisoners of war in the Philippines, Formosa, and Thailand was not only inhumane, but was below the standard given to Japanese prisoners of war?

A I supposed that the treatment being given to prisoners was on the same level as that given to our own troops. However the conditions under which Japanese troops lived were bad and to that extent the treatment given to prisoners was bad too. In regard to Thailand, I do not know that I heard that prisoners had been mistreated by officers in the building of the railroad between Thai and Burma, that prisoners were made to work when they were sick, and, on the basis of this, I ordered a court martial.

Q Other than at Bataan and the building of this railroad that you refer to, did you hear of any other mistreatment of American or British prisoners of war?

A I have told you about the Thai-Burma thing just now. Aside from those two, I haven't heard much of that sort of thing. In connection with China, two or three cases came to my attention. Of course the authorities on the spot conducted courts martial, the results of which were forwarded to me for information as War Minister. On two or three occasions I was not satisfied with the results of the courts martial since the cases had been dropped, and I sent them back for reconsideration.

Q You have stated that you knew complaints came into the Foreign Office and were sent to your office in connection with the mistreatment of prisoners and civilians. Did you or did you not acquaint yourself with the nature and content of these complaints?

A These matters were usually brought up at the meetings of the bureau chiefs of the War Department. These meetings were held twice a week. Either the Chief of the Prisoner of War Information Bureau or the Military Affairs Bureau would bring them up. They were referred by the bureau chief meetings to the commander in the field who had the authority to act. If there was inhumane treatment, he would take measures accordingly, and the report would probably come back to me as War Minister.

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文書ヲ四一八ニロ號

一九四六年三月十八日東條英機訊問板本

カセー八頁

向比律賓、台灣及泰國之俘虜ノ度々取扱ハ卑シキ非人道的ナルト
言フバカリデナク日本人ノ俘虜ガ受ケタ待遇ノ程度以下ナルコト
ヲ庫イタコトガアリマス

答、私ハ俘虜ニ關シテハ我々軍隊ニ關シテハ我々待遇ト
同程度ナルコトヲ居リマシタ、然レ日本軍ノ生活狀態ハ悪クソ
ノ程度ニ俘虜ノ待遇モ悪カッタノデシタ、泰國ノ人々ニハ俘虜
ガ泰ノ緬甸間ノ鐵道建設ノタメニ官ニ酷使サレタコトソシテ
病氣中ニ使役サレタ由ヲ庫イタ事ヲ承知シテオリマス
其レニ基キ軍法會議ヲ命令シタノデス

向貴方ガ話シタ「バターン」件及此ノ鐵道建設ノ件以外ニ米英人俘
虜ノ虐待ニ付テハ何カ庫カレタコトガアリマス

答、私ハ只今泰ノ緬甸ノ事ヲ申シマシタ、之ヲ二事以外ニハ此ノ
種ノ事ハアマリ庫イテ居リマセン、中國關係デハ三件ノ事ガ私
耳ニ這入リマシタ、勿論現地當局ハ軍法會議ヲ開キ其ノ
結果ハ陸軍大臣トシテノ私ヘ報告サレマシタ、ニミノ場合ニ於
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シタ貴方ハ之等ノ抗議ノ性質及内容ヲ調べテ解決ヲナスカ
ソレトモサウデハサカッタノデスカ

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文書ヲ四一八ニ號

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シタ貴方ハ之等ノ抗議ノ性質及内容ヲ調べテ解ッタデスカ
ソレトモサウデハナカツタデスカ

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答之等ノ事項ハ三週例陸軍省ノ局長會議ニ附議サシマシタ、
此ノ會議ハ三週ニ回開催サシマシタ、修繕情報局長又ハ
軍務局長ガ右ノ事項ヲ提出スルコトニサシテ居マシタ、右ノ事
項ハ局長會議カラ実行確ヲ握ツキナリ現地司令官ニ送達
サシタデス若シ非人道的ナリ待周ガアレバ現地司令官ハ之
從ツキテ手段ヲ講ビタデスソノ報告ハ陸軍大臣タル私
ニ廻シテ来リタガタデス

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